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THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMONS
for HIGHER and POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
Cybersecurity

September 26, 2023

Program Summary

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College's program in Cybersecurity enables students to learn how to apply risk, threat, and security assessments to safeguard businesses, develop a security policy, and respond to incidents. With work-based coursework, students enhance communication and problem-solving skills to effectively translate technical information and solutions for multiple audiences.

Strengths & Noteworthy Practices

In addition to Digital Literacy, the program was found to be strongest in developing Effective Communication, Critical Analysis, and Professionalism & Responsibility.

Particularly notable is the Cybersecurity program's focus on ethics. As students learn the ethics, laws, and regulations required for the Cybersecurity profession, they are able to more deeply consider EEQs like problem-solving, effective communication, and critical analysis. In IT 105, students participate in weekly discussions and write a capstone paper about ethical issues in Cybersecurity—thinking in multiple modes about how their technical knowledge can be used to help or harm people, a huge contemporary issue in the field. Across multiple courses, students are asked to complete projects that argue for short- and long-term decisions for real and imagined companies, review possibilities of risk across multiple iterations of a project, prepare justifications for their choices, and learn to manage stakeholders.

ALL students complete a Field Experience course (CGEN 292) that includes an internship alongside content such as resume preparation, interviewing, networking, and general workforce skills. Learning outcomes include the ability to describe professional behavior in a business environment, applying concepts acquired in the classroom to actual work performance, analyzing work duties, and comparing and contrasting them with classroom learning, evaluating work performance in relation to professional, ethical, and academic expectations, and producing documents and role-playing skills to professionally present oneself to potential employers.

BlueRidge
COMMUNITY AND
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ESSENTIAL
EMPLOYABILITY
QUALITIES
EEQ CERT
CERTIFICATION